IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 29, 31, 32, and 37. Please also amend claims 1, 14, 17, 21, 30, and 34 as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) A method for distributing music over the internet, comprising the steps of:

(a) recognizing a plurality of musical compositions from a specimen vocalized by a person, by comparing a pattern derived from the specimen with patterns from a pattern library;

(b) sending information to identify the musical compositions in writing to the person over the internet;

(c) receiving a request from the person over the internet for an audio preview of one of the musical compositions, which has been selected by the person;

(d) sending a corrupted version of some or all of the selected musical composition to the person over the internet;

(e) receiving a request from the person over the internet for the selected musical composition without corruption; and

(f) sending the selected musical composition without the corruption to the person,

wherein the person is provided with a set of keys to hear and choose from before vocalizing the specimen, ~~and~~

wherein the pattern derived from the specimen comprises pitch ~~information.~~ information, and

wherein deriving the pattern comprises detecting whether the specimen has a loudness level greater than a predetermined value, dividing the specimen into a plurality of frequency bands, finding a first one of the frequency bands that has the strongest signal when the loudness level of the specimen is greater than the predetermined value, detecting when the strongest signal shifts to a second one of the frequency bands if the loudness level of the specimen is greater than the predetermined value, and detecting the number of half

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tones between the first one of the frequency bands and the second one of the frequency bands.

Claims 2-4 (cancelled).

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the specimen over the internet and then deriving the pattern from the specimen.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pattern derived from the specimen is received over the internet.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (f) is conducted over the internet.

Claims 8-12 (cancelled).

13. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising securing payment for the musical composition without corruption before conducting step (f).

14. (currently amended) A method for distributing music to a person over the internet, comprising the steps of:

(a) picking out a musical specimen on a simulated musical instrument, step (a) being conducted by the person, the specimen comprising codes to identify the notes picked out rather than sounds detected by a microphone, the codes being selected from a set having not more than about twelve codes per octave, the codes in the set identifying notes in an evenly-tempered scale;

(b) sending the specimen over the internet to a music distribution company;

(c) recognizing at least one candidate musical composition from the specimen, step (c) being conducted by the music distribution company;

(d) sending information to identify the at least one candidate musical composition in writing to the person over the internet;

(e) selecting a musical composition from the at least one candidate musical composition, step (e) being conducted by the person;

(f) sending a request for an audio preview of the selected musical composition to the music distribution company over the internet;

(g) sending a corrupted version of some or all of the selected musical composition to the person over the internet; and

(h) sending the selected musical composition without corruption to the person over the ~~internet.~~ internet,

wherein step (c) comprises identifying a sequence of notes in the specimen without rests between the notes, and information about the time interval between the beginning of one note in the sequence and the beginning of the next note.

Claims 15 and 16 (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the simulated musical instrument comprises a member selected from the group consisting of an image of a musical keyboard, an actual musical keyboard, and a manually operable ~~Wiser-numeric~~ alpha-numeric keyboard.

Claims 18 – 20 (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) A method for delivering a musical composition desired by a person who does not know the title of the desired musical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a specimen having information about at least a sequence of notes characterizing the desired musical composition, the specimen being generated by the person while the person is at a first location;

(b) sending the specimen over a communication network to a second location that is remote from the first location;

(c) at the second location, identifying the desired musical composition from the specimen; and

(d) sending the desired musical composition to the person,

wherein step (a) comprises providing a simulated musical instrument with which the person picks out the specimen, ~~and~~

wherein step (b) comprises sending codes that identify notes in the specimen, the codes being selected from a set having not more than about twelve codes per octave, the codes in the set identifying notes in an evenly tempered ~~scale.~~scale, and

wherein deriving the pattern comprises generating information identifying a sequence of notes without rests between the notes, and information about the interval between the beginning of one note in the sequence and the beginning of the next note.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the communication network in step (b) is the internet, and wherein the desired musical composition is sent in step (d) over the internet.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the desired musical composition that is identified in step (c) is one of a plurality of candidate compositions that are identified from the pattern derived from the specimen, and further comprising identifying the candidate compositions to the person, the desired composition being selected by the person from among the candidate compositions.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the specimen additionally includes information about the duration of the notes in the sequence.

Claims 25 and 26 (cancelled).

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the specimen further comprises duration information.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the person is additionally provided with a user-adjustable tempo for vocalizing the specimen.

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Claim 29 (cancelled).

30. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for distributing music over the internet, comprising the steps of:

(a) recognizing a plurality of musical compositions from a specimen vocalized by a person, by comparing a pattern derived from the specimen with patterns from a pattern library;

(b) sending information to identify the musical compositions in writing to the person over the internet;

(c) receiving a request from the person over the internet for an audio preview of one of the musical compositions, which has been selected by the person;

(d) sending a corrupted version of some or all of the selected musical composition to the person over the internet;

(e) receiving a request from the person over the internet for the selected musical composition without corruption; and

(f) sending the selected musical composition without the corruption to the person,

wherein the person is provided with a set of keys to hear and choose from before vocalizing the specimen,

wherein the pattern derived from the specimen comprises pitch information, and

wherein deriving the pattern comprises generating information identifying a sequence of notes in the specimen without rests between the notes, and information about the time ~~the~~ interval between the beginning of one note in the sequence and the beginning of the next note.

Claims 31 and 32 (cancelled).

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising displaying the simulated musical instrument on a monitor that additionally displays a plurality of options for use by the person, the options including a record option, a play option, a back-up option, and a send option, the simulated musical instrument and the options being actuated by the person using a pointing device.

34. (currently amended) A method for delivering a musical composition desired by a person who does not know the title of the desired musical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a specimen having information characterizing the desired musical composition, the specimen being generated by the person while the person is at a first location using an apparatus configured for sending and receiving information via a communication network, the apparatus including a keyboard and an audio transducer for producing sounds, keys of the keyboard being assigned notes of a musical scale and the notes being sounded by the transducer when the keys are manually actuated by the person;

(b) sending the specimen over the communication network to a second location that is remote from the first location;

(c) at the second location, identifying the desired musical composition from the specimen; and

(d) sending the desired musical composition to the person,

wherein the person generates the specimen by actuating a sequence of keys while listening to the notes sounded by the ~~transducer.~~ transducer, and

wherein step (c) comprises identifying a sequence of notes in the specimen without rests between the notes, and information about the time interval between the beginning of one note in the sequence and the beginning of the next note.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the apparatus additionally has a screen, and further comprising displaying on the screen a mapping that associates notes of the scale with keys of the keyboard.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein step (b) comprises sending codes that identify notes in the specimen rather than the sounds of the notes themselves.

Claim 37 (cancelled)